

**TESTIMONY OF
ERIC J. BROWN
Before the
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MARCH 14, 2022**

Distinguished leaders and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong **opposition to sections 4-23 of SB-16, AN ACT CONCERNING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME**

My name is Eric Brown and I reside in Centerbrook, CT. Sections 1-3 of this bill deal with "ghost guns" which, I understand, have a genuine nexus to many crimes committed in Connecticut that involve firearms. I have no objections to those 3 sections as they address an actual "loophole" that needs to be filled to reduce incidences of violent crimes that involve the use of a firearm.

However, the same can not be said for sections 4-23 which seek to further expand Connecticut's already expansive definition of "assault weapon" and place further restrictions on access and use of a broad spectrum of firearms by law-abiding citizens while, at the same time, do little or nothing to restrict such access to criminals.

As a law abiding, gun owning "good guy", who has spent hundreds of hours training on the defensive use of a wide variety of firearms in order that I may, if called upon, safely and effectively protect myself, my family, my community and my country, I'm hoping I and many others like myself can count on you taking a moderate position on SB-16 by supporting sections 1-3, addressing the issue of ghost guns. While not fully understanding all the implications, both intended and unintended, of sections 24-34, I offer no objection to those sections, which appear to largely deal with controlling the illegal sale of guns as well as measures to reduce juvenile crime.

However, I implore you to please not make it even harder for law abiding citizens to obtain and train themselves in the safe handling and effective use of firearms needed for protection in today's environment.

Our ability to do so is not only a fundamental and constitutional right, but - as events in Ukraine clearly and horrifically demonstrate, they are fundamental responsibilities for those who have the courage and determination to run towards danger when those rare but uncompromising occasions arise. Please don't make things worse by further limiting access to firearms to criminals.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration. I would be happy to discuss or answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at ejbgjp@gmail.com.

Please delete sections 4-23 of SB-16.